

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3919
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KADUNA 0313

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES FOR PRESIDENT'S KANO VISIT

REF: LAGOS 2741 (NOTAL)

1. THERE FOLLOW BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES ON THE PRINCIPAL PERSONALITIES WHOM PRESIDENT CARTER IS LIKELY TO MEET IN KANO.
2. COLONEL SANI BELLO - MILITARY GOVERNOR, KANO STATE.

BELLO, A CAREER ARMY OFFICER, WAS APPOINTEDMWO HIS PRESENT POSITION IN AUGUST 1975 AFTER THE COUP THAT OUSTED THE GOWON REGIME. 35 YEARS OLD AND A NATIVE OF NIGER STATE, HE ENTERED LPE ARMY AS A CADET IN 1962 AFTER COMPLETION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL. A GRADUATE OF SANDHURST (UK) AND THE NEW NIGERIAN ARMY COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE (NACSC) AT JAJI, BELLO HAS HELD A VARIETY OF MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS, INCLUDING ASSISTANT DIVISION QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY AND BATTALION COMMANDER. HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK IN APRIL 1976. BRITISH MILITARY INSTRUCTORS HAVE DESCRIBED HIM AS BRIGHT AND HARDWORKING DURING HIS 1976 COURSE AT THE NACSC. BELLO'S PERFORMANCE AS MILITARY GOVERNOR HAS BEEN FAIR TO GOOD. HE HAS MOVED AGAINST CORRUPT OFFICIALS IN
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THE STATE AND TRIES TO MAINTAIN A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH FREQUENT VISITS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. INITIALLY SOMEWHAT NERVOUS AND UNSURE OF HIMSELF IN AN UNFAMILIAR CIVIL ASSIGNMENT, HE HAS SETTLED DOWN AND APPEARS TO BE ON TOP OF HIS JOB. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS SEVERAL CHILDREN. DURING THE 1976 US PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, BELLO WAS ONE OF THREE GOVERNORS WHO VIEWED VIDEO

TAPES OF THE CARTER-FORD CAMPAIGN DEBATES AT THE HOME OF
THE US CONSUL IN KADUNA.

3. ALHAJI ADO BAYERO - EMIR OF KANO (ADDRESSED AS YOUR HIGHNESS).

BAYERO IS 47 YEARS OLD AND HAS BEEN ON THE THRONE OF KANO SINCE 1963. A DESCENDENT OF THE TRADITIONAL KANO RULING FAMILY, HE ATTENDED ARABIC AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KANO. AS AN ADULT HE TOOK SHORT COURSES IN ADMINISTRATION AND IN POLICE WORK, THE LATTER IN THE U.K. PRIOR TO BEING NAMED EMIR, HE HELD POSITIONS SUCCESSIVELY AS A BANK ACCOUNTANT, SECRETARY OF THE KANO CITY COUNCIL, ELECTED MEMBER OF THE NORTHERN REGION HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, CHIEF OF THE KANO NATIVE AUTHORITY POLICE AND NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL. XCOM 1963 TO 1966 IN HIS CAPACITY OF EMIR, BAYERO WAS A MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO IN THE FORMER NORTHERN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT. A TALL, QUIET AND DIGNIFIED MAN, THE EMIR HAS SEVERAL WIVES AND A NUMBER OF CHILDREN. CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA (NSUKKA) FROM 1966 TO 1975 AND OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN FROM 1975 UNTIL NOW, HE HAS A STRONG INTEREST IN EDUCATION. (ONE OF HIS MAIN INTERESTS DURING A 1970 USG-FUNDED INTERNATIONAL VISITOR TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES WAS TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE FINE WORK DONE BY OHIO UNIVERSITY AND AID IN ESTABLISHING THE ADVANCED TEACHERS' COLLEGE IN KANO.) THE EMIR HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD
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EXTENSIVELY VISITING, INTER ALIA, THE UK, THE USSR, SAUDI ARABIA, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS AND IRELAND.

4. ALHAJI SIR ABUBAKAR - SULTAN OF SOKOTO (ADDRESSED AS YOUR HIGHNESS).

BORN IN 1901 OR 1902, THE SULTAN IS THE GREAT GRANDSON OF SHEHU OTHMAN DAN FODIO, FOUNDER OF THE HAUSA-FULANI EMPIRE IN NORTHERN NIGERIA. HE IS THE SENIOR (IN BOTH AGE AND PRESTIGE) TRADITIONAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADER OF MOSLEMS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA. HE IS ALSO THE ACKNOWLEDGED SPIRITUAL HEAD OF ALL MOSLEMS IN WEST AFRICA. SIR ABUBAKAR'S ENGLISH IS JUST ABOUT LIMITED TO "HELLO, HOW ARE YOU" ALTHOUGH HE PROBABLY UNDERSTANDS A GOOD BIT MORE. HE HAS A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR AND IS RELATIVELY UNPRETENTIOUS. DESCRIBED BY THE BRITISH YEARS AGO AS "REACTIONARY POLITICALLY, EXTREMELY CONSERVATIVE IN SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS MATTERS, INDOLENT AND AN APATHETIC ADMINISTRATOR," HE IS NOW CONSIDERED REASONABLY PROGRESSIVE, ESPECIALLY IN EDUCATION, AN AREA IN WHICH THE NORTH HAS ALWAYS BEEN BACKWARD.

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5. ALHAJI SIR USMAN NAGOGO - EMIR OF KATSINA (ADDRESSED AS YOUR HIGHNESS).

BORN IN 1905, NAGOGO SUCCEEDED TO THE KATSINA THRONE UPON HIS FATHER'S DEATH IN 1944. PREVIOUSLY HE SERVED SUCCESSIVELY AS SECRETARY TO THE EMIR OF KATSINA, KATSINA NATIVE AUTHORITY POLICE OFFICER AND LATER POLICE CHIEF AND DISTRICT HEAD OF KATSINA. THE EMIR HAS TRAVELLED WIDELY IN ASIA (DURING WORLD WAR II), AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE NIGERIAN DELEGATIONS TO PRE-INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCES HELD WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN 1952 AND 1954. FROM 1956 TO 1966, THE EMIR WAS A MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO IN THE FORMER NORTHERN REGION GOVERNMENT. HE WAS KNIGHTED BY QUEEN ELIZABETH IN 1962. HE HAS NUMEROUS WIVES, CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN. ONE OF HIS SONS, MAJ GEN (RETIRED) HASSAN KATSINA, WAS THE FIRST MILITARY GOVERNOR OF THE NORTHERN REGION. A SHORT MAN, THE EMIR HAS AN INFECTIOUS SMILE AND ENGAGING PERSONALITY. HE SPEAKS AND UNDERSTANDS A LITTLE ENGLISH. FOR MANY YEARS A WORLD-RANKED POLO PLAYER, HE ONLY RETIRED FROM COMPETITIVE POLO ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO. NAGOGO IS ONE OF THE THREE OR FOUR MOST RESPECTED AND INFLUENTIAL TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN THE NORTH.

6. ALHAJI UMAR MUSTAFA EL-KANEMI - SHEHU (EMIR) OF BORNO
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(ADDRESSED AS YOUR HIGHNESS).

THE SHEHU, BORN IN 1924, ACCEDED TO THE THRONE OF BORNO IN 1974. HE HAS HELD POSITIONS AS A SCRIBE, POLICE CLERK, VETERINARY SUPERVISOR, ELECTED MEMBER OF THE NORTHERN REGION HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (MINISTRY OF LANDS AND SURVEY) AND DISTRICT HEAD WITHIN THE BORNO EMIRATE. HE IS A KANURI, THE TRIBE WHICH PREDOMINATES IN BORNO STATE AND EMIRATE. THE SHEHU APPEARS TO SHARE CHARACTERISTIC TRAITS OF THE KANURI, ALLOOFNESS AND PRIDE. HE HAS SEVERAL WIVES AND A NUMBER OF CHILDREN.

7. ALHAJI SHEHU IDRIS - EMIR OF ZARIA (ADDRESSED AS YOUR HIGHNESS).

BORN IN 1936, ALHAJI SHEHU IS THE GRANDSON OF A PREVIOUS (1879-88) EMIR. HE WAS EDUCATED AT ZARIA MIDDLE SCHOOL AND KATSINA TRAINING COLLEGE. FROM 1958 TO 1960, HE WAS THE HEADMASTER OF A PRIMARY SCHOOL; FROM 1961 TO 1964 HE HELD VARIOUS LOW AND MIDDLE LEVEL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IN ZARIA AND KADUNA. FROM 1964 TO 1973 HE SERVED AS ZARIA LOCAL AUTHORITY COUNCIL SECRETARY AND AS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PREVIOUS EMIR. IN 1973 HE BECAME DISTRICT HEAD OF ZARIA CITY AND ENVIRONS; HE WAS INSTALLED AS EMIR OF ZARIA IN 1975. THE EMIR HAS VISITED AUSTRALIA, UK AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. LAST FALL HE WAS THE RECIPIENT OF A USG-FUNDED INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT WHICH TOOK HIM AROUND THE UNITED STATES. HE WAS MOST IMPRESSED WITH THE TRIP AND ARRANGED

FOR A RECIPROCAL VISIT TO ZARIA BY A GROUP OF U.S. ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES LATE LAST YEAR.

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8. A. BALARABE ISMA'ILA - SECRETARY TO THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF KANO STATE.

CHIEF CIVIL SERVANT IN KANO STATE, ISMA'ILA WAS BORN IN 1934. HE JOINED THE NORTHERN REGION CIVIL SERVICE IN 1959, SERVING IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES, INCLUDING DEPUTY CHIEF CIVIL ENGINEER, UNTIL 1968 WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE KANO STATE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SURVEY IN 1968. HE WAS NAMED TO HIS PRESENT POSITION IN LATE 1975.

9. BPAO EVANS IS SEEKING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON HEAD OF KADAWA PROJECT AND ACTING CHIEF JUDGE OF KANO STATE. BURKE

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